

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE2104735505
T-473NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

VICTORIAN CORN CRIBS

AND/OR COMMON

Victorian Corn Cribs

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

On the north side of Maryland Route 33 at the end
of a .6 mile road, 6.8 miles east of *Danaster Rd*
St. Michaels

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Michaels

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Talbot

CODE

041

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER: under**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

restoration

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Coleman duPont

STREET & NUMBER

RFD 5

CITY, TOWN

Easton

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

21601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

T-473

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED

☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE

☒ MOVED DATE 6/75

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On the north side of Maryland Route 33 at the end of a .6 mile road 6.8 miles east of St. Michaels are located a pair of corn cribs. The interesting feature about these buildings is the elaborate tracery along the eaves and barge boards. The two cribs are connected by a low, rough shed. In the front end of each structure are two doors, one directly above the other, each with large, iron strap hinges. The buildings are constructed of vertical boards with horizontal boards in the gables. At the corners of the eaves are turned pendants. At the peak of the front and rear gables of both buildings is a wooden finial supported by carved brackets.

The corn cribs were moved from their original site on the north side of U.S. Route 13, about two miles east of Westover, in Somerset County, to their present Talbot County site in June 1975. The tracery on the cribs is reflective of that on the Victorian-style house which stood on the Somerset County property.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
— PREHISTORIC	— ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	— COMMUNITY PLANNING	— LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	— RELIGION
— 1400-1499	— ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	— CONSERVATION	— LAW	— SCIENCE
— 1500-1599	X AGRICULTURE	— ECONOMICS	— LITERATURE	— SCULPTURE
— 1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	— EDUCATION	— MILITARY	— SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
— 1700-1799	— ART	— ENGINEERING	— MUSIC	— THEATER
X — 1800-1899	— COMMERCE	— EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	— PHILOSOPHY	— TRANSPORTATION
— 1900-	— COMMUNICATIONS	— INDUSTRY	— POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	— OTHER (SPECIFY)
		— INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

These nineteenth century corn cribs are architecturally significant for two reasons. First, they represent a type of outbuilding which is becoming exceedingly rare, and second, they illustrate by the tracery along the eaves and barge boards the strong influence of the Gothic style of architecture during the Victorian era.

American enthusiasm for the Gothic style in the mid-1800's was an outgrowth of the Gothic revival in England earlier in the century, a revival encouraged by a new appreciation of the art and architecture of the Middle Ages, the popularity of the romantic novels of Sir Walter Scott, and "the Victorian enchantment with European ruins of castles and abbeys."¹ English builders of this period made extensive use of such Gothic features as pointed arches, pinnacles, battlements, window tracery and towers and turrets.

Skilled English craftsmen executed these designs in stone, but in America the costly Gothic style was often translated from stone into wood. Thousands of "carpenter Gothic" houses were erected and Gothic stone-tracery was copied in wood or iron. This was explained by John Maass in his 1957 book, The Gingerbread Age:

These characteristic Americana have steep gables and pointed windows; sometimes they were sheathed with vertical boarding instead of the familiar horizontal clapboard . . . when Gothic was translated into carpenter Gothic the stone tracery became wooden 'gingerbread.'²

The wooden tracery was cut out with a scroll saw which was worked by a foot treadle or driven by steam. Local carpenters planned their own designs, employing a great variety of geometric or freeflowing

¹John Maass, The Gingerbread Age (New York: Bramhall House, 1957), p. 63.

²Ibid., p. 64. From the Medieval French "gingimbrat," meaning preserved ginger. The last syllable was mistranslated into English as "bread." English gingerbread was a sort of cake . . . cut into fancy shapes. The word was then applied to the carved and gilded decoration of a sailing ship and finally to gaudy architectural ornament. It was first used in this sense in the eighteenth century.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Victorian Corn Cribs
Talbot County
Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

figured, or copied from books which illustrate the most widely used designs. For these reasons, tracery patterns are difficult to date or classify. Their place in the architecture of the time is described as follows by Maass:

. . . whether original or copied, these patterns were part of the universal design language of the nineteenth century; the very same scrolls and curlicues are found in Victorian ironwork in the pattern for Victorian needlework and dress-making, in the Victorian printers' fancy typography and ornament, in the Victorian "Spencerian" handwriting and flourishes.³

The barge board (or verge board) originally served a functional purpose, covering and protecting the roof framing which projected out beyond the gable wall in early English construction. Traditionally it was a solid board with decorative relief carving and little or no pierced work. If the roof framing did not project, such weatherboarding had no purpose; but it might be added in order to give the gable roof a more substantial appearance. The fretted barge boards would usually meet at the apex, where a king post, with a finial at the top and a drop at the bottom, completed the decoration.⁴

In his book, The Gingerbread Age, John Maass characterizes the age which produced these decorative corn cribs:

The 18 year old Princess Victoria became Queen in 1837. The year happens to coincide with the gradual advent of a new kind of architecture; it was the architecture of the first industrial age and we call it Victorian. [Its] buildings are perfect symbols of an era which was not given to understatement. They are in complete harmony with the heavy meals, strong drink, elaborate clothes, ornate furnishings, flamboyant art . . . of mid-nineteenth century America.⁵

³Ibid., p. 65.

⁴John I. Rempel, Building With Wood (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, reprinted 1972), p. 159.

⁵Maass, pp. 7, 14.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

T-473

Maass, John. The Gingerbread Age. New York: Bramhall House, 1957.Maass, John. The Victorian Home in America. New York: Hawthorne Books, Inc., 1964.

see continuation sheet #

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 0 |
ZONE EASTING NORTHINGB | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
ZONE EASTING NORTHINGC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ann E. Hill, Summer Intern; Lois Snyderman, Research Assistant

pmj

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

June 1974

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle, The Shaw House

TELEPHONE

(301) 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____

STATE ____

LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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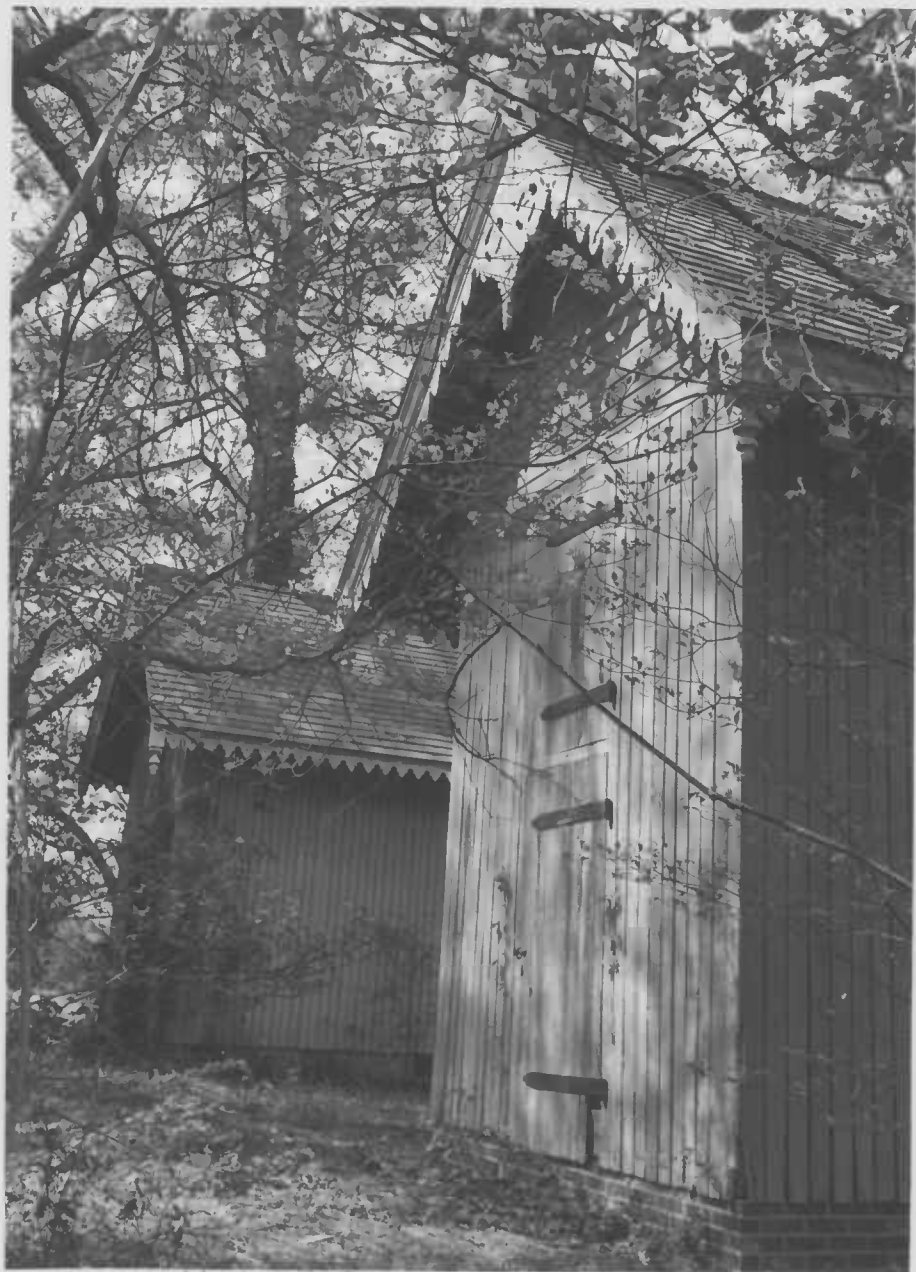
Victorian Corn Cribs
Talbot County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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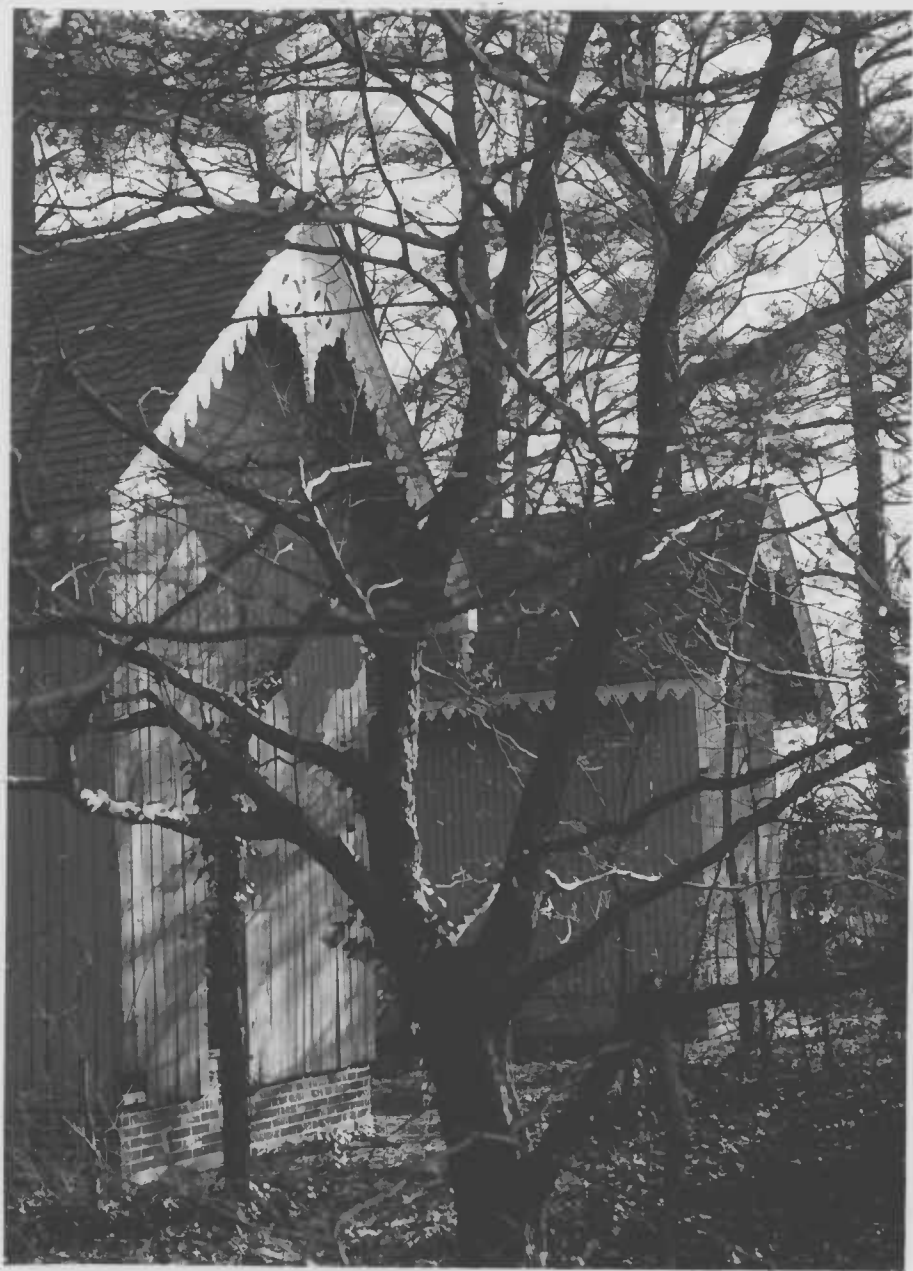
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11 x 162

52% 473

T- 473



T-473